

To function properly, America needs well-informed citizens. The decisions of the FCC undercut our right to information by limiting the number of media owners. This situation puts America at risk because it gives too much power to a few media owners. They can censor information, or, more insidiously, limit the information that is presented.

Consider the case of daily newspapers. Many cities now have just one paper. The owner of that one paper can limit the content and scope of it to fit its agenda. That is grossly unfair to the citizens as they now get their news through a filter that may be biased. How can these citizens make good choices at the ballot?

The Telecommunications Act was a severe blow to our nation's media. (The fact that Clear Channel has over 1000 stations is a disgrace. No one should have that much power to determine what goes out over the airways. They belong to the American people, not corporations, something the FCC has apparently forgotten.) We need to do damage control, immediately.

As an example of the power of consolidated media power, let's look at the under-reporting of the election shenanigans in the state of Florida. The fact that that received so little coverage in the USA is a frightening wake-up call. That story should have led in all papers, radio shows, and TV reports. And yet, the only way I found out about it was through a book that quoted British sources. (Why must I leave my country's media to find out about my own government? Is that not undermining our democracy?) Incidentally, the book itself was almost banned. Even though it was published and printed, one powerful person was able to keep it in storage, indefinitely. (Considering that this book hit the New York Times Bestseller list, it is apparent that the business of making money was not his motivator. Why do we give such power to corporations and a very few people to determine what we read, listen to, and see?) It was only through the action of concerned librarians that the book was distributed. Can you imagine? Freedom of information guaranteed by librarians??? Where was the FCC?

As a citizen of this country, I remind you of your duty to all citizens. Keep our media diverse so that our form of government can work.